Confidential collection No. 57/42-43

Years 1942-43 142,
CB. No. 57, 62, 89, 94, 165, 1147.

Instructions received from the presidency in connection with mr. Gandhi's fast for three weeks and action taken thereon.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Collection No. ... 5'78.42

Year 1932 —1933.

General and Revenue Secretariat.

CB. 168-42 (Ses 1-4)

Confidential Branch.

SUBJECT .....

Instructions received from the Resident in connection with Mahatma Gandhi's fast for three weeks and action taken thereon.

PREVIOUS REFERENCES.	LATER REFERENCES.

WD 01455—GPB—100—6-4-39

Confidential branch file

years - 1942 -

file No=. 57, 62, 87, 94, 115, 147, 142

147 2 files

Bundle No: A,

pt.
p.f.
43.

THE RESIDENT MYSORE

THE RESIDENCY,
BANGALORE.

20th February 1943

C.S. 68-424

My dear Mr. Anantaraman,

With reference to our conversation yesterday, I am desired to send you a copy of an extract from Polindia's telegram giving precise instructions regarding the line to be taken with the Press ~~if the news breaks to-day~~.

The telegram "Lime Juice" has just been received.

Yours sincerely,

Rajamantrapravina K.V. Anantaraman Esq., B.A.

L.J. [illegible]

Copies to [illegible]

No.
19

Copy of paragraph 2 of cypher telegram No.367 P dated the 8th February 1943 from Polindia New Delhi to Resmys Bangalore.

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2. As it is important not to afford a pretext on which both friendly and unfriendly sections of the press will feel bound to unite in protest against control with possible loss of publicity for our own statements it will be necessary to begin by calling a meeting of provincial press advisory committees and/or local editors on the day on which the news breaks for a time five hours after time of receipt of "Lime JUICE" telegram and explaining position and requirements to them. They should be told quite firmly that while bare bulletins about Gandhi's health and reasonable editorial comments will be allowed, Government do not (in interest of public security) allow publication o statements by or interviews with Gandhi or any playing up of situation in form of inflammatory editorial comments or cartoons, flaring headlines, undue typographical or pictorial display or colourful reports the effect of which would be to enlist sympathy of public in favour of Gandhi and against Government or otherwise to stir up popular

excitement or apprehension. I must leave it to you to decide in the light of your relations with local press and of your discussion with editors how far these objects can be secured by voluntary co-operation or by statutory orders under rule 41 of Defence of Indi Rules. General object should be not to pass statutory orders against papers which can be trusted to co-operate or to frame such orders in wider terms than is necessary in first instalment on understanding (which must be clearly conveyed) that prompt action, whether by way of precensorship or suspension will be taken in regard to any paper that takes undue advantage of absence of a statutory order.

It is however important from outset to secure that no statements by or interviews with Gandhi will be published in any paper and you may think it advisable to prohibit these at once by orders under Rule 41 (i)(b) directed either to whole press or to those papers which cannot be trusted. Reports of progress of fast must also be confined to objective news of state of Gandhi's health such as would appear in medical bulletins and if any

Secr
D.O
17

paper cannot be trusted on this point specific orders of precensorship may be necessary under rule 41 (1)(a). Any orders which you think may be necessary especially on last two points should of course be ready for issue immediately after editors conference on 9th so that evening editions may be controlled. You must of course take such of your officers as you think necessary into you confidence subject to what is said in last sentence of paragraph No.1 above for preparation of orders and for summoning editors conference (invitations to which must await receipt of "Lime Juice" telegram).

-Copy-

214

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE	Charges to pay. Rs.	As.	Office Stamp.
This form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this telegram.			

Handed in at (Office of Origin)	Date	Hour	Minute	Service Instructions.	Words
			30		9

TO Rajamantra Finance minister Bangalore

Recd. here at 9 H. 5 M.

your urgent Confidential letter of yesterday action may be taken proposed

madhavrao.

N.B.—The name of the Sender, if telegraphed is written after the text.

Eden Press, Calcutta—No. 375 (5170/B-241)—12-2-42—1,50,000 Bks.

MYSORE STATE RAILWAY. [L. T. 1.

Class

Prefix X Code YT

INLAND TELEGRAM.

Licensed Telegraph Message Form.

No. .....

Recd. at 9 Hrs. 40 Mts. From Arsi By Rp	Charged Words	Rs.	A.	Sent at ..... Hrs. ..... Mts. To ..... By	(*Space for postage stamps on the reverse.*) Office Stamps

Handed in at (Office of Origin).	Date	Hour	Minute	Service Instructions	Words to be signalled
Arsikere MSR	10				23

Nothing to be written by the sender above this line.—Please give a full Address.

Enter opposite, whether—

'Express' or 'Ordinary,'

'State' or on 'Railway Service,'

'Reply Paid,' stating the amount.

TO

Name. Rajamantra Pravina

Address. Ananta Saraman

finance minister

Place (Telegraph Office). Bangalore city M.S.R

your urgent confidential letter of yesterday action may be taken as proposed

M. Rp

TO BE TELEGRAPHED — FROM Person Madhavarao

NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED — *Signature* .....

and

Address of Sender .....

ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR STAMPS

The *ACCURACY* of telegrams is not guaranteed; the Sender and Receiver must accept *ALL RISKS* arising from non-delivery, errors or delays. *Complaints* respecting *Inland* telegrams should be addressed to the Postmaster-General of the Circle concerned. Claims for *Refund* involving complaints against the Service should also be addressed accordingly. Claims for refund respecting telegrams *which do not involve complaints against the Service* should be addressed to the Officer-in-charge, *Telegraph Check Office, Calcutta.* Claims for refund or complaints respecting telegrams should be made within two months from the date of the telegram. The receipt granted for the telegram should be enclosed with the reference. In addresses consisting of a name prefixed to a Registered or Abbreviated address, or when a telegram is addressed to one person at the house of another whose name is also given, the words "Care of" or the symbol "C/o" should be inserted after the name of the Addressee. There is always risk of a telegram not being delivered if a full and definite address is not given, in the first instance.

WD 6150—GBPM—300 pads of 50 leaves each—13-1-41.

Strictly confidential & Immediate.

9th February 3

D.O.No. 163/42-43.

Colonel Fraser rang me up on the phone this afternoon and told me that he was sending his Secretary to see me on a very important, urgent and confidential matter. Mr. Egerton called on me later and explained the matter to which the Colonel Fraser had referred in his conversation. Colonel Fraser has received a telegram from the Government of India that it was anticipated that Gandhi would begin a fast this morning, and that if he did so, the Government of India had decided to release him as a counter-move. No restrictions could be placed on Gandhi as a free man, or on others associated with him. The Government of India are anxious that no opportunity should be given for propaganda either by Gandhi or his associates. In this view, the Government of India have suggested that all Newspapers should be clearly told that while they would be free to publish bulletins relating to Gandhi's health or his progress or to write editorials temperately worded, no attempts should be made to carry on objectionable propaganda to publish statements that may be made by Gandhi, or to print reports of interviews given by Gandhi to members of the public. A telegram from the Government of India has been received later stating that the anticipated situation did not arise this morning but that it might arise tomorrow. In the event of Gandhi undertaking the fast and his being released in consequence, Colonel Fraser wants that action should be taken to send for the local Newspapers and advise them in the manner indicated above. I am writing this to keep you informed of the position. If you approve, I shall, on hearing from the Residency take action as indicated above ... I shall reques the Minister for Local Self Government and Public Health in charge of Information and the Press to send for all the editors of newspapers, explain the position and ask for their cooperation. The details as stated will not be given to the Editors. They will

will only be informed that in a situation of this kind we as a State shew and they as the representatives of the Press in the Sta should not get mixed up in British Indian politics and that while they may publish bulletins about Gandhi's health or any general views that they may have, in a temperate way, they should not indulge in propaganda in furtherance or support of the Congress in British India.

I shall be glad if you will kindly send me a telegram tomorrow morning or a telephone message saying that you approve of what I have suggested above.

9.2.43

As suggested in D.O.No.163 of 42-43 of the Minister for Finance and Revenue dated the 9th February addressed to you, I sent for all the Editors of the local Newspapers to-day and explained to them the position arising from the fast undertaken b Mr. Gandhi. By this time, they have come to know of this through an A.P.I. message which was to the following effect:

"MAHATMA GANDHI HAS INFORMED THE VICEROY THAT HE PROPOSES TO UNDERTAKE A FAST OF THREE WEEKS DURATION FROM TENTH FEBRUARY SAYS PRESS COMMUNIQUE. COMMUNIQU SAYS IT IS PROPOSED TO ADD JUICES OF CITRUS FRUIT TO WATER TO MAKE THE WATER DRINKABLE, AS HIS WISH IS NOT FAST TO DEATH BUT TO SURVIVE THE ORDEAL."

I explained to the editors the desirability of avoiding the publication o any statements by or interviews with Mr. Gandhi or any playing up of situation in form of inflamatory editorial comments or cartoons flaring headlines, undue typographical or pictorial display or colourful reports

confirming publication of bare reports of Mr Gandhi's fast & his health candidness as given in authorised medical bulletins &

CS 168/422

Secret.
D.O.No.F.17/1943.

Bangalore, 11th February 1943.

Chief Sec.
Please submit
Personal

My dear Mr. Anantaraman,

In continuation of my secret demi-official letter No.F.17/1943 dated the 10th February 1943, I am desired to say that information has been received that apparently Gandhi refused the Government of India's conditions regarding release and is insisting on carrying out fast in detention. The Government of India regret his decision but their position remains the same viz that they are prepared to release him for the purpose and duration of his fast but that if he is not prepared to take advantage of that fact and fasts while in detention he does so solely on his own responsibility and at his own risk. In that event he would be allowed however to have his own medical attendants and to receive visits from friends with the permission of Government. Government of India's statement which is being published is being amended accordingly.

2. The principle of instructions regarding control of publicity remains unaltered, but you will, of course, have to adjust your action to altered circumstances. For instance as fast materialises in detention there will now be little question of news of its progress from any except official sources (which will be dealt with by the Government of Bombay) and no question of interviews with Gandhi except with official permission, or of communications by Gandhi himself to press. Applicants for interviews should be referred to the Government of India and one condition of all interviews will be that interviewer must submit for approval any account he proposes to publish.

Yours sincerely,

Rajamantrapravina K.V. Anantaraman Esq., B.A.,
Bangalore.

A draft notification
prohibiting the publication of
certain items of news concerning
the fast of Mr Gandhi is
submitted for approval. It
may be kept ready & issued
after a few days, if the time
& the press requires it & if
the instructions given
yesterday by the Home Min. L.S.S
are not being followed.

Home
L.S.S
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Secy
11.2.43.

RM
12/2/43

13/2

~~Revised Draft~~.

NOTIFICATION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (1) of rule 41 of the Defence of India Rules, as applied to Mysore, the Government of His Highness the Maharaja are pleased to make the following order addressed to the editors, printers and publishers generally in the Mysore State.

1. Printers, publishers and editors of newspapers are hereby prohibited from printing or publishing in any newspaper or other document -

(a) any matter relating to Mr. Gandhi's fast and its progress, except reports of the said fast and its progress which should be confined to objective news of the state of Mr. Gandhi's health such as would appear in official medical bulletins or communiqués; or

(b) any cartoons, sensational or flaring headlines, typographical or pictorial display or colourful reports relating to the said fast and its progress; or

(c) any statements by, or interviews with, Mr. Gandhi.

2. Any comments on the said fast and its progress shall, before being published in any newspaper or other document, be submitted for scrutiny to the Chief Press Adviser.

Para 2 may be omitted for the present. We may watch for a few days & then take action, if required -

By Order,

11/2

Offg. Chief Secy. to Govt.

11/2

N O T I F I C A T I O N.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (1) of Rule 41 of the Defence of India Rules as applied to Mysore, the Government of His Highness the Maharaja ~~of~~ are pleased to make the following order addressed to the editors, printers and publishers generally in the Mysore State.

1. Printers, publishers and editors of newspapers are hereby prohibited from printing or publishing in any newspaper or other document -

(a) any matter relating to Mr.Gandhi's .....except reports derived from official bulletins or communiques; or

(b) any cartoons, sensational or flaring headlines, typographical or pictorial display or colourful reports of any matter connected with the ~~said~~.....

2. Editorial and other comments or any statements, by, or interviews with any person relating to the ~~said~~..... shall, before being published in any newspaper or other document, be submitted for scrutiny to the Chief Press Adviser.

BY ORDER,

Offg.CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

22/2

Secret & Immed-
iate.
S.C.No.F.17/43.

THE RESIDENCY
MYSORE

Bangalore, 19th
February 1943.

Chief Sec-
Please submit to Minister
for Finance

My dear Mr. Anantaraman,

The Resident has just had a telegram from the Political Department saying that Mr. Gandhi's condition is regarded as serious, and adding that in the event of his death the policy of the Government of India would be to refrain from attempting to stifle or prohibit manifestations of national mourning subject only to all possible provision for the preservation of the public peace Nor would publicity regarding death and funeral be restricted, though it would be important to restrain anti-Government comments on the same line as in the case of the fast.

Yours sincerely,

Rajamantrapravina K.V. Anantaraman Esq., B.A.,
Minister for Finance and Revenue,
Government of Mysore,
Bangalore.

for perusal.
Dewan
Finance 19-2-43
19/2/43
19.2.43.
19.2.43 Dewan

SECRET & IMMEDIATE.

Copy of D.O. letter No.F.17/43 dated the 19th February 1943 from the Secretary to the Resident in Mysore, Bangalore, to the Minister for Finance and Revenue, Bangalore.

The Resident has just had a telegram from the Political Department saying that Mr. Gandhi's condition is regarded as serious and adding that in the event of his death the policy of the Government of India would be to refrain from attempting to stifle or prohibit manifestations of national mourning subject only to all possible provision for the preservation of the public peace. Nor would publicity regarding death and funeral be restricted, though it would be important to restrain anti-Government comments on the same line as in the case of the fast.

"COPY"

Strictly Confidential
&
Immediate.

D03694-704/CB. 168-42-3

Bangalore,
21st February 1943.

Dear Mr.

It is understood that Mr. Gandhi's condition has deteriorated and is very grave. In the event of any untoward result happening, any manifestation of national mourning need not be stifled or prohibited but all possible precautions should be taken for the preservation of the public peace and for preventing the commission of any unlawful acts. Any publication regarding death and funeral need not be restricted, though it will be necessary to restrain anti-Government comments and propaganda in this connection.

The situation should be closely and keenly watched and every precaution taken from now to meet all eventualities.

The receipt of this letter may kindly be acknowledged.

Yours sincerely,

For perusal before issue.

21/2

I have read this to Dhruva on phone - Issue

21/2

ISSUED.

Do D.G.P.
D.C. & Dh